

03-277

Confirmed

DEC 02 2002

November 17, 2002
Peace and Justice Committee
University Unitarian Church, Seattle

Distribution Center

Michael Powell -- Public Interest at FCC

Concentration and Conglomeration: The Federal Communications Act has created an oligarchy of corporate giants -- always with something to sell--which dominates radio and television on the publicly owned airwaves in the United States. For we the people to govern ourselves, a truly democratically free and openly diverse broadcast system is imperative.

Telecommunications Democracy, we believe, is stretched to the breaking point when a few for-profit corporations control the vital flow of mass communications in our nation. " For the first time in US History, the Country's most wide spread sources of news, commentary and entertainment are controlled by *only six firms*,

A Program for Media Democracy

- 2002 9 8 11 PM ☒ Safeguards include newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership ban--limits need to be placed on the number of TV stations a station group can own.
- ☐ Open access to new-media platforms, local news and public affairs programs.
- ☐ Fair Share management must be implemented and enforced.
- ☐ Airwaves belong to the public; half of the proceeds should go to the public.
- ☐ Public interest must be included.
- ☐ Standards need to be defined and cultural content reflect the best.
- ☐ Intellectual Property/Fair/Open Source implemented for the nonprofit sector
- ☐ Content must not be reduced to mere advertising of products for profit.
- ☐ News must not be propaganda for one political party--the GOP owns all six.
- ☐ Access and diversity--Media dwindled from *fifty corporations in 1983 to a mere six in 2000*; Michael Powell plans to allow further mergers
- ☐ We need Universal Service.
- ☐ Legislation must be re-enacted to guarantee fairness and accuracy in reporting--evidence shows the private sector will not police themselves.

For a Free Society to Exist, Congress and Michael Powell Must Enact and Enforce
Legislation to Protect Fairness in the Media, Replacing Censorship with Open
Investigation

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- Open access to new-media platforms, local news and public affairs programs.
- Fair Spectrum management must be implemented and enforced.
- Airwaves belong to the public; half of the proceeds should go to the public.
- Privacy Protection must be included.
- "Public Interest" needs to be defined and cultural content reflect the best.
- Intellectual Property/Fair/Open Source implemented for the nonprofit sector
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- Access and Diversity—Media dwindled from fifty corporations in 1983 to a mere six in 2000; Michael Powell plans to allow further mergers
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For a Free Society to Exist, Congress and Michael Powell Must Enact and Enforce Legislation to Protect Fairness in the Media, Replacing Censorship with Open Investigation

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37

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RE: CENSORSHIP

